



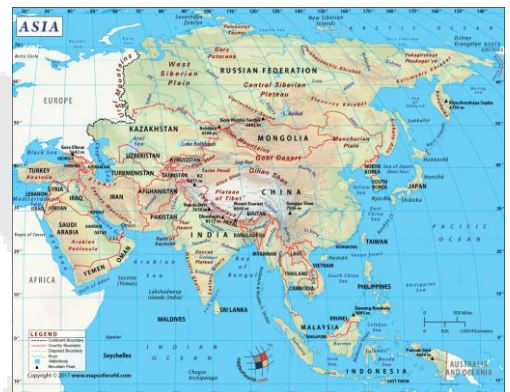
ASIA

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- Asia is the world largest continent, having an area of 44,444,100 sq km.
- It is located primarily in the Eastern and Northern Hemispheres.
- It covers 8.8% of the Earth's total surface area with a population of 4.4 billion which is 60 % of the world's total population.
- The earth's highest and lowest places are both in Asia:
 - The highest place on earth: Mount Everest
 - The lowest place on earth: Dead Seashore



- The Equator, Tropic of Cancer and Arctic Circle passes through it.
- It is surrounded by the Indian Ocean in the south; Arctic Ocean in the north; the Pacific Ocean in the east; Ural Mountains, Caspian Sea, Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea in the west.



- It is separated from Africa by the Red Sea and Suez Canal.
- It is separated from North America by Bering Strait.
- Asia is to the east of the Suez Canal, the Ural River, and the Ural Mountains, and south of the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian and Black Seas.
- Important Island groups: Andaman and Nicobar, Indonesia, Philippines and Japan.



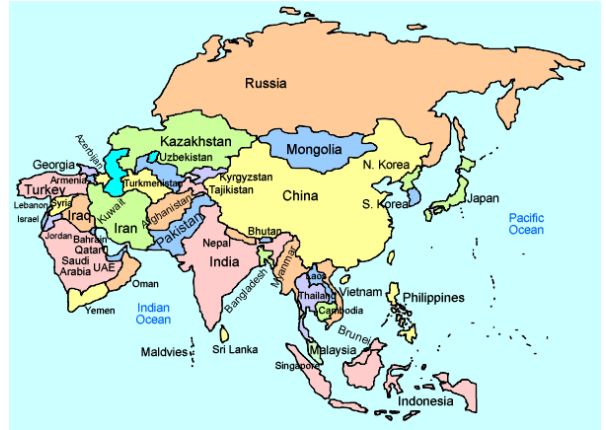
Peninsulas

- A peninsula is a mass of land surrounded by water but attached to the mainland. The Deccan plateau region is also a peninsula. The major peninsulas of Arabia, India, and Malay are in southern Asia. The Kamchatka peninsula lies in northeastern Asia.
- Arabian Peninsula is the largest Peninsula in the World.



Regional Divisions of Asia

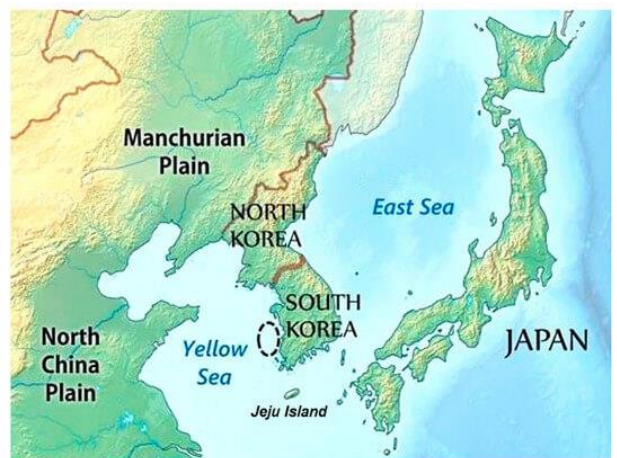
- **Number of Countries:** According to the United Nations, there are 48 countries in Asia.
- Asia can be divided into six physiographic divisions:
- **Central Asia:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- **Eastern Asia:** China, Hong Kong, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Macau, Mongolia, Taiwan



- **Northern Asia:** Russia
- **South-eastern Asia:** Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.
- **Southern Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.
- **Western Asia:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Physical Divisions of Asia

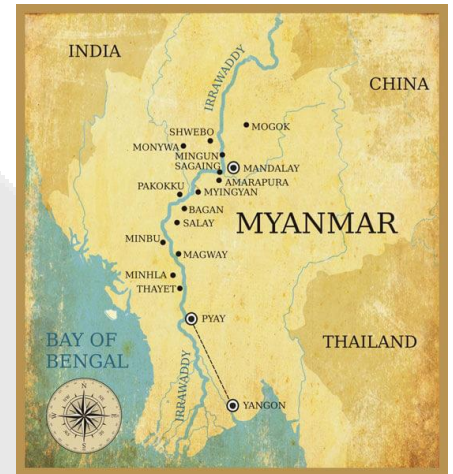
- Asia can be divided into five major physical regions: mountain systems; plateaus; plains, steppes, and deserts; freshwater environments; and saltwater environments.
- **major lowlands**
- **Great Siberian plain:** It extends between the Ural Mountains in the west and the river Lena in the east. It is the largest lowland in the world covering an area of 1,200,000 square miles approx.
- **Manchurian Plain:** It is the area adjoining Amur river and its tributaries of the northern part of China with an area of 135,000 square miles approx.



- **Great Plains of China:** It is contributed by two major rivers of China, Hwang Ho and Yangtze river which covers an area of 158,000 square miles approx.



- Ganga plains
- Irrawaddy plains



Deserts

- Asia has some big deserts such as the Gobi, the Takla Makan, the Thar, the Kara-Kum, and the Rub-al-Khali Deserts.
- The Rub' al Khali desert, considered the world's largest sand sea, covers an area larger than France across Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- Gobi Desert: Situated to the southeast of Mongolians Plateau and extends into China.

Geographical distribution of the deserts of Asia



• THE DESERT LANDSCAPE OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Rub-al-Khali: Largest continuous sand desert in the southern part of Saudi Arabia.
- It is also called 'Empty Quarter'.
- Al Nafud Desert: Deserts land in the north eastern region of Saudi Arabia.

• THE DESERT LANDSCAPE OF IRAN

- Dash-I-Kavir: Largest Salt desert of the world situated in the northern Iran.
- Dasht-I-Lut: Barren desert of Iran situated in the eastern part of country.

- **The Central Mountains:**

- A mountain knot is a junction of two or more mountain ranges. The two main mountain knots in Asia are:
- The Pamir Knot is the junction of five mountain ranges they are the Sulaiman, the Hindu Kush, the Kunlun, the Karakoram, and the Himalayan ranges. Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world in the Himalayan range.



- The Armenian Knot is connected to the Pamir Knot by the Elburz and the Zagros Ranges that originate in the Armenian Knot. The Tien Shan and the Altai are other mountain ranges in Asia.



- Major Mountain Ranges: Hindukush, Zagros, Himalaya, Karakoram, Kunlun and Tien Shan.
- Mount Everest (8848 m), Nepal-Tibet, China border
- K2 (8,611 m), Pakistan-China
- Kangchenjunga (8,586 m), Nepal-Sikkim (India).
- Makalu (8,462 m), Nepal-Tibet, China



- **Hindukush Mountains:** Running westwards from the Pamir Knot to the Elburz Mountains in Iran.
- **Arakan Yoma:** Running southwards, is the western range of Myanmar.
- A range of the Himalaya which further continues through the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sumatra, Java and other Indonesian islands.
- **Kailash Range:** East of Karakoram Range in Tibet.
- **Kunlun Shan Range:** Lies to the north of Tibet Plateau and to the South of the desert basin of Tarim in China

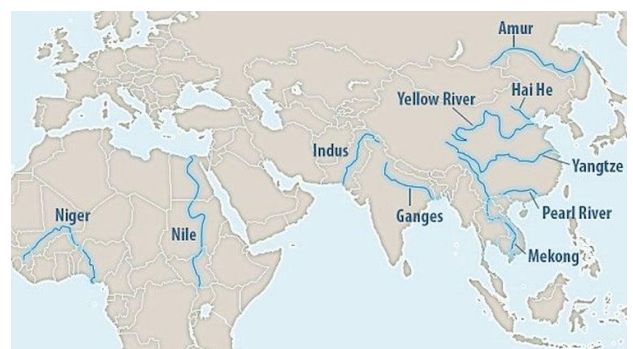
Major Plateaus of Asian Continent –

- Plateaus are the land areas having a relatively that surface considerably raised above adjoining land on at least one side, and often cut by deep canyon.
- **Ladakh** :Between Karakoram and Himalaya mountain ranges
- **Tibet** :Between Kulun and Himalayan Mountain range
- **Pamir** :Well connected to the range of mountains such as The Himalayas with the Tian Shan, Karakoram, Kunlun, and the Hindu Kush ranges on all sides
- Pamir Plateau is known as 'Roof of the World' situated in the Central Asia.
- **Armenian**:Present in between Caspian and the Black Sea
- **Deccan** :Extended in between the Western Ghats in the west and the Eastern Ghats in the east of
- Indian Subcontinent, it almost touches the southern tip of India and in north covered by the Satpura and Vindhya Ranges
- **Plateau of Antolia of Asia Minor or Turkey**: (Volcanic)Enclosed between Pontic mountain ranges in the South and Taurus in the southwest



Drainage of Asia

- Oceans: Asian continent is surrounded by three major ocean from three sides such as
- **The Pacific Ocean** – It covers the eastern part of Asia where major rivers of eastern Asia drain, such as Menam Mekong, Xi Jiang, Chang Xiang, Huang Ho, and Amur.
- **The Indian Ocean** – It covers the southern part of Asia and the major rivers that flow into the Indian Ocean are Tigris, Euphrates, the Indus, the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween.
- **The Arctic Ocean** – It covers the North east part of Asia and consists of three major rivers such as Ob, Yenisey, and Lena.





- **Yangtze River**
- It is the longest river of Asia.
- It flows through Szechuan basin.
- Shanghai and Wuhan, are the important cities of China lying along the river.
- **Source:** Tibetan Plateau
- **Destination:** East China Sea.
- **Mekong**
- It flows through China, Thailand-Laos border, Cambodia and Vietnam over 4,160 km to South China Sea.
- Longest river in South East Asia.
- In Laos, the Mekong forms the western boundary with Thailand.
- Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh cities are situated on the bank of river.

- Mekong valley of south Vietnam is devoted to rice cultivation.
- Delta: Arcuate, is (characterised by funnel shaped distributaries, stabilised by growth of mangrove vegetation) lying in Vietnam.
- **Source:** Tibetan highlands
- **Destination:** South China Sea
- **Chao Phraya**
- City located : Bangkok
- The principal river of Thailand.
- **Irrawaddy**
- Tributary : Chindwin
- Major river of the country referred to as the 'Life line of Myanmar'
- Central basin between Irrawaddy and Chindwin around Mandalay is very important for wheat and cotton cultivation.
- Delta region of Irrawaddy and Sittang, known as the 'Rice Bowl of Myanmar'.
- Source : North Myanmar
- Destination: Bay of Bengal
- **Brahmaputra**
- Brahmaputra is called Tsang-Po in Tibet before entering in India.
- Rises in glacier about 100 km south east of Mansarovar Lake
- Destination: Bay of Bengal

- **Ganga**
 - In the upper course Alaknanda and Bhagirathi River meet at Devprayag and from Ganga
 - Source: Gangotri Glacier
 - Destination: Bay of Bengal
- **Indus**
 - One of the world's largest rivers flow south-eastwards across the country then drain into Arabian Sea through Attock plains of Pakistan
 - Source: Mansarovar lake
 - Destination: Arabian Sea
- **Tigris and Eupharates**
 - These two rivers dominate Iraq and flow south-eastwards across the country then drain into the Persian Gulf via a combined estuary.
 - They meet at Shatt-al-Arab in Iraq.

Other Facts:

- Time Zone: There are eleven different time zones in Asia which is span from UTC (GMT) +4 to UTC (GMT) +10.
- The longest (9439m) railway route in the world i.e. Trans-Siberian Railway are in Asia.
- The World's highest railway line has been constructed in China. It starts from Qinghai provinces of China to Lhasa of Tibet. Its height is 4500m above sea-level.
- Longest railway platforms in the World lies in Asia: Gorakhpur railway station, Uttar Pradesh, India (1,366.33 m) (4,483 ft.) (Longest in the world); Kollam Junction, Kerala, India (1,180.5 m) (3,873 ft.); Kharagpur, West Bengal, India: 1,072.5 m (3,519 ft.).
- It is the birth place of the oldest civilizations of the World, i.e. Indus Valley Civilisation, Mesopotamia, and Chinese Civilization.
- Asian rivers are called 'Cradles of Civilization' and Asian continent is called 'The Birthplace of All the Religion'
- The deepest trench of the world: Mariana Trench lies in the Pacific Ocean near Philippines.
- Major Food Crops: Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Jowar-Bajra and Ragi.
- Major Cash Crops: Tea, Sugarcane, Jute, Cotton, Rubber and Tobacco
- The highest rainfall in the World is received at Mawsynram near Cherapunji (new name Sohra), situated in the Khasi Hills in Meghalaya.